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For Immediate Release  
January 21, 2004

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## **Senate approves parental-notification bill for abortions**

**Lansing** — The Senate approved a bipartisan measure today that governs the granting or denial of parental consent waivers for minors considering an abortion, Senator Bill Hardiman (R-Kentwood) announced.

House Bill 4478, sponsored by Rep. William O'Neil, creates standards for judges when they consider a parental-notification waiver and prohibits a minor from "judge shopping" or re-filing a waiver petition if she already has been denied one for the same pregnancy. Sen. Hardiman has been recognized throughout the country as a spokesman on life and marriage issues and chaired the legislative committee that reviewed HB 4478.

"Minors need parental approval when getting a tattoo or their ears pierced, and they most certainly should have parental consent when considering a choice involving the life or death," Hardiman said. "This legislation makes clear that parents should be involved. It also sets standards for judges to determine when parental involvement would not be wise or helpful. The legislation aims to serve the best interests of all the individuals involved in such a crucial decision."

The bill now heads back to the House for consideration of Senate changes. The House passed HB 4478 with strong support and is likely to concur in the few changes.

"I am concerned about protecting the family. Parental rights are essential to protection of the family structure in our society," Hardiman said.

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